

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**ADAM NEYLON**



98<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**DATE:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**FROM:** State Representative Adam Neylon  
**TO:** Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
**RE:** Supporting AB 745

Chairman Wanggaard and fellow Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety:

My name is Steve Fawcett. I am testifying on behalf of Representative Neylon from Waukesha County and am here in support of Assembly Bill 745. I am joined by Fredi Bove from the Department of Children and Families' Division of Safety and Permanence, who will be helping me discuss AB 745, and together we hope to answer any questions you may have.

This legislation is aimed at bringing Wisconsin law into federal compliance with Title IV-E foster care program as amended by the recent "Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families" and "Justice for Victims of Trafficking" Acts. Specifically, AB 745 addresses how we treat children who go missing from out-of-home care.

Currently, there are limitations on what information the DCF can give law enforcement when a child goes missing from out-of-home care. This bill will improve information sharing between child welfare agencies and law enforcement for missing children in two important ways:

1. Child welfare agencies will be authorized to take and retain photographs of children under the placement, care or supervision of the agency. Should the child go missing, the agency can share that photograph with law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, based on guidelines established by the DCF.
2. Modifies the state child welfare automated information system, eWiSACWIS, to generate automated messages to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children when a child goes missing. It is expected that any costs related to modification of eWiSACWIS and training for caseworkers will be absorbed within the current agency budget.

This bill incorporates positive, common sense changes needed to help keep at-risk children safe. I hope you will join me in supporting this vital legislation. Thank you.

Now I will turn it over to Fredi Bove from the Department of Children and Families to discuss some of these changes in more detail.